

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In the Office Action dated October 10, 2006, the Examiner rejected claim 9 on the basis of Persem, U.S. Patent No. 4,765,150. The Examiner further objected to claim 10 as depending from a rejected claim, but indicated that claim 10 would be allowable if it were amended to be independent and to include all the elements of claim 9. As the Examiner suggested, with this Amendment, Applicants have now cancelled Claim 9, and amended claim 10. Specifically, claim 10 is amended to include all the necessary elements of claim 9. Claim 10 was also amended so as to improve the form of the claim, mainly by moving the descriptions of some of the connections of the elements from one area of the claim to another. Applicants intend that claim 10 as amended herewith has exactly the same scope as when it was filed.

Applicants wish to state that these amendments to claim 10 were done, not as an admission that claim 9 was not allowable as filed, but merely to expedite the present application, without going to the expense of arguing the patentability of claim 9. Any inference that either claim 9 or claim 10 was not allowable as filed is explicitly denied.

Applicants note that the cover sheet of the amendment does not indicate the allowability of any claims, and that the text of the Examiner's remarks only indicate that claims 1-8 and 12-30 are allowed as filed. Claim 11 is not mentioned in either context. Applicants assume that, since claim 11 depends from claim 10, and claim 10 was indicated to include allowable subject matter if restated in independent form, that the Examiner intended to include claim 11 in the claims that would be allowable with the amendment to claim 10.

The Examiner is invited to contact counsel for the Applicants if this assumption is incorrect.

CONCLUSION

Therefore, it now appears that the claims 1-8 and 10-30, as amended, are in condition for allowance, and such action is earnestly solicited at an early date. Should the Examiner disagree or believe that, for any other reason, direct contact with the attorney for the Applicants would advance the prosecution of this application, he is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number given below.

Respectfully submitted,

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By: /signed, Nicholas A. Kees/
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